

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 have been amended to more clearly recite the distinguishing features of the present invention in better compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112.

Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to clarify the features of the wrist-worn communication apparatus of the present invention whereby the speaker unit (110) includes a sound output cylinder (111a) that is disposed at a predetermined position on the band (103) so that an output face of the sound output cylinder faces a same direction as an open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable, whereby the microphone unit (111) includes a sound input cylinder (112a) that is disposed in a vicinity of the speaker unit on a surface of the band so that an input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder, and whereby when the user's wrist is inserted in the band and the band is worn on the user's wrist, the output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear (E) and the input face of the sound input cylinder is adapted to be

directed to the user's mouth (M), as supported by the disclosure in Figs. 1-4 and the corresponding description in the specification.

In addition, independent claim 5 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention as shown in Figs. 5-9 whereby a support belt member (105, 118) is disposed at a predetermined position on the band (103) such that the support belt member can extend one of: (i) along a longitudinal direction of the band, and (ii) in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the band. As recited in amended independent claim 5, the speaker unit (111) includes a sound output cylinder (111a) provided on one end of the support belt member so that when the band is worn on the user's wrist and the support belt member is extended in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the band, an output face of the sound output cylinder faces a same direction as an open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 5, the microphone unit (112) includes a sound input cylinder (112a) disposed on an opposite end of the support belt member so that an input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder. And as recited in amended independent claim 5, when the band is worn on the user's

wrist and the support belt member is extended in the direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the band, the output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear (E) and the input face of the sound input cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's mouth (M).

Still further, independent claim 7 has been amended to clarify the features of the present invention also as shown in Figs. 5-9 whereby the support belt member (105, 118) is attached pivotally by a pivot (110) to the band (103) at a predetermined position on the band. As recited in amended independent claim 7, the speaker unit (111) includes a sound output cylinder (111a) provided on one end of the support belt member so that when the band is worn on the user's wrist and the support belt member is pivoted in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the band, an output face of the sound output cylinder faces a same direction as an open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable. In addition, as recited in amended independent claim 7, the microphone unit (112) includes a sound input cylinder (112a) provided on an opposite end of the support belt member so that an input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder, and at least one lock member which locks at least one end of the support belt member unlockably to the band. And as recited in amended independent claim 7, when the band is worn on the user's

wrist and the support belt member is pivoted perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the band, the output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear (E) and the input face of the sound input cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's mouth (M).

Yet still further, independent claims 1, 5 and 7 have been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements with respect to the recitation of the band, and claims 2-4, 6 and 8 have been amended to better accord with amended independent claims 1, 5 and 7, from which they respectively depend.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by USP 5,239,521 ("Blonder"), and claims 1-6 and 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of Blonder and USP 6,311,071 ("Voroba et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

As pointed out hereinabove, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1, a wrist-worn communication apparatus is provided in which an output face of a

sound output cylinder faces a same direction as an open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable and an input face of a sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder, so that when the user's wrist is inserted in the band and the band is worn on the user's wrist the output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear and the input face of the sound input cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's mouth.

Similarly, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 5 and 7, a wrist-worn communication apparatus is provided in which the sound output cylinder and sound input cylinders are disposed on opposite ends of a support belt member so that when the support belt member is extended or pivoted in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the band and the band is worn on the user's wrist, the output face of the sound output cylinder faces a same direction as the open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable and is directed toward the user's ear, and the input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder and directed to the user's mouth.

Thus, according to the structure of the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 5 and 7, the

output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear in a same direction as the open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable, and the input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder and is adapted to be directed to the user's mouth. With this structure the user can direct the microphone unit and speaker unit toward his or her mouth and ears merely by laying the palm of his or her hand by his or her ear, as described in the specification at page 12, lines 5-18. Thus, the user can communicate with another party in a natural posture without bending his or her arm or wrist in an unnatural manner. In addition, with the structure of the claimed present invention, howling is prevented from occurring even when the speaker and microphone units are provided close to each other on the band, as described in the specification at page 14, line 25 to page 15, line 5. This is because the structure of the claimed present invention ensures the directivity of the speaker unit and microphone unit toward the user's ear and mouth.

As recognized by the Examiner, Blonder discloses a wrist-worn communication apparatus comprising a speaker unit and a microphone unit which are provided on a support member attached on a band by a pivot. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that in Blonder the output face of the speaker unit and the input face of the microphone unit face in the same direction, and that

Blonder does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described features of the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claims 1, 5 and 7 whereby the output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear in a same direction as the open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable, and whereby the input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder and is adapted to be directed to the user's mouth.

In item 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner cited Voroba et al for the disclosure of a speaker 106 and a microphone 108 provided in a wrist worn communication device close to each other and in a perpendicular orientation. It is respectfully pointed out, however, that in Voroba et al the output face of the speaker (i.e., sound output cylinder) is perpendicular to the open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable, and does not face a same direction as the open face of the band as according to the present invention as recited in each of amended independent claims 1, 5, and 7. Thus, with the structure disclosed in Voroba et al, in order to orient the speaker toward the ear and the microphone toward the mouth, an awkward twisting of the user's arm and wrist is required.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that even if the teachings of Blonder and Voroba et al were combinable in the

manner suggested by the Examiner, the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 5 and 7 would still not be achieved or rendered obvious. Specifically, even if the teachings of Blonder and Voroba et al were combinable in the manner suggested by the Examiner, such combination would still not achieve or render obvious the features of the claimed present invention whereby the output face of the sound output cylinder is adapted to be directed to the user's ear in a same direction as the open face of the band through which the user's wrist is insertable, and whereby the input face of the sound input cylinder is perpendicular to the output face of the sound output cylinder and is adapted to be directed to the user's mouth.

Still further, it is noted that USP 6,215,985 ("Tolvanen") was only cited against (now canceled) claims 9-15, and in any event it is respectfully submitted that this reference also does not disclose, teach or suggest the above described structural features and advantageous effects of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 5 and 7.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 5 and 7, and each of amended claims 2-4, 6 and 8 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguishes over all of

the cited references, taken singly or in any combination, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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